

Message Text

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14

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 SY-10 FBO-01 RSC-01 DRC-01

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P 200516Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1151

UNCLAS SEOUL 7794

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, KS

SUBJ: U.S. TRADE CENTER, SEOUL

REF: STATE 223072

PLEASE NOTIFY COMMERCE THAT THE EMBASSY CANNOT AGREE TO
STATE'S 223072 FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

(1) SEVEN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS WERE INITIALLY
INVITED TO BID BUT ONLY FOUR BIDS RECEIVED. SINCE ALL BIDS
RECEIVED WERE BEYOND COMMERCE'S BUDGET, EMBASSY REJECTED
ALL BIDS AND ENTERED INTO A CONTRACT THROUGH NEGOTIATING
WITH ANOTHER CONTRACTOR WHICH SAVED COMMERCE APPROXIMATELY
19,000 DOLLARS WHICH WAS FURTHER REDUCED BY 4,340 DOLLARS
THROUGH NEGOTIATED DELETIONS. ALL OF THIS WORK EXCEPT THE
NEGOTIATED DELETIONS ACCOMPLISHED PRIOR TO DISTEFANO'S
ARRIVAL IN SEOUL.

(2) PRELIMINARY DRAWINGS FOR THIS PROJECT SHOWN ON PAGE
1 INCLUDE NEW WINDOWS AND GRILL WORK IN CAFETERIA
INITIALLY APPROVED BY COMMERCE, I.E. , NEW WINDOWS TO
MATCH ADJACENT WINDOWS.

(3) DECORATIVE GRILL WORK IS A SECURITY REQUIREMENT AND
NOT REPEAT NOT A DECORATIVE GRILL. GRILL WORK IS A
SECURITY REQUIREMENT LEVIED ON EMBASSY AS A SECURITY
REQUIREMENT BY SY DEPARTMENT AND NOT FOR DECORATIVE
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PURPOSES.

(4) THE PARTICULAR WALL WHERE WE PROPOSE TO INSTALL WINDOW PRESENTLY HAS A DOUBLE STEEL DOOR WHICH IS THE EGRESS AND INGRESS FOR APO MAIL. THEREFORE REMOVING DOOR AND REMAINDER OF WALL IS A MINOR UNDERTAKING. THE EXTERIOR STONE WILL NOT BE LOST BUT USED FOR THE EXTERIOR WALL IN THE EXTENSION TO THE BUILDING THAT WILL ACCOMMODATE THE TRADE CENTER. IF COMMERCE UNWILLING TO DO THIS REQUEST CONCURRENCE TO ELIMINATE CONSTRUCTION OF EXTRA REST ROOMS TO FINANCE WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE ESSENTIAL.

(5) WOULD APPRECIATE ADVISE SOONEST SINCE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT NOT YET SIGNED.

FYI: REGRET DELAY IN REPLY BUT TORNADO ON THURSDAY WHICH SERIOUSLY DAMAGED GSO COMPOUND (REFTEL SEOUL'S 7735) AND VISIT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER DID NOT PERMIT EARLIER REPLY.
HABIB

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30 JUN 2005

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